

DRAFT definitions relevant to Water Uses Reference

Withdrawal

- water taken from nature - lakes, streams and aquifers - for uses such as municipal, industrial, agricultural and domestic.

Return Flow

- that portion of water withdrawn which returns to surface or underground sources after use, and thus becomes available for further use in the drainage basin.

Consumption

- the remaining portion of water withdrawn which is evaporated, transpired from plants or incorporated into products, and thus is not available for further use locally.

Diversion

- water conveyed by ditch, canal or pipeline from its basin of origin for use in another drainage basin, thus usually means *interbasin* diversion, e.g., Chicago Diversion. There may also be diversions between tributaries of a basin, which may be called *intrabasin* diversions, e.g., Welland Canal.

Bulk Removal

- water conveyed in bulk volume outside its basin of origin by diversion or other means such as tankers ships or trucks. Excludes removals in small containers, e.g., bottled water, which is normally in containers below 20 litres capacity.

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